

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON OAU SUMMIT,
UN VOTES AND US AID

1. MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR OULD ABDALLAH CALLED ON AF/W
DIRECTOR JAN. 15 FOR BRIEF DISCUSSION SHORTLY BEFORE
SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION.

2. AMB. ABDALLAH EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION
WITH ASST. SECRETARY SCHAUFLE'S AFRICAN TRIP IN ADVANCE
OF OAU SUMMIT. ABDALLAH FELT ON THE SCENE EXPLANATION
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OF USG POSITION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF SEVERAL AFRICAN

LEADERS TO TAKE A FIRM LINE MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO ABILITY OF MODERATES TO HOLD OFF PRO-MPLA DECISION AT SUMMIT. EVEN SO, ABDALLAH STATED, GIRM AND SOME OTHER MODERATES ON ANGOLA DO NOT ACCEPT USG ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET ROLE. AF/W DIRECTOR REITERATED US ANGOLA POSITION, STRESSING USG NOT AGAINST MPLA ITSELF, BUT AGAINST MASSIVE SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICAN PROBLEM.

3. ABDALLAH REFERRED TO ARTICLES OF JAN. 9 IN NY TIMES AND JAN. 10 WASHINGTON POST WHICH REPORTED USG TO LINK UN VOTES WITH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND ASKED IF "BLACK-LIST" EXISTS. HE FELT REPORTS PROBABLY TRUE BECAUSE

THERE HAD BEEN NO "OFFICIAL" USG DENIAL. IN REPLY, AF/W DIRECTOR EMPHASIZED TWO POINTS. FIRST, THERE WAS NO QUOTE NEW UNQUOTE POLICY. US CONTINUES TO FORMULATE ITS POLICIES TOWARDS OTHER COUNTRIES AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTIONS OF THESE COUNTRIES THAT AFFECT IMPORTANT US INTERESTS. IN THIS CONSIDERATION WE TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ACTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CONTEXTS. AS AMBASSADOR ABDALLAH AWARE, A COUNTRY'S VOTING RECORD ON CERTAIN ITEMS SUCH AS KOREA WERE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US, AND THE RECORD ESTABLISHED BY EACH COUNTRY COULD NOT FAIL TO INFLUENCE OUR RELATIONS. SECOND, THERE WAS NO QUOTE BLACK LIST UNQUOTE. OUR POLICIES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE EVALUATED IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. IN CONCLUSION, HE DREW ATTENTION TO CONTINUING CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST. A RECENT RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REQUESTED A REVIEW OF US PROGRAMS IN THE LIGHT OF UN VOTES. ABDALLAH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE IS LESS REASON FOR MAURITANIA TO VOTE IN THE UN FOR NORTH KOREA IN SPITE OF CLOSE RELATIONS, OR AGAINST THE US ON GUAM, THAN FOR THE ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ON THIS ISSUE HIS COUNTRY WOULD DEFEND ITS POSITION AT ALL COSTS.

4. AF/W DIRECTOR TURNED TO SPANISH SAHARA SITUATION, ASKING AMBASSADOR FOR INDICATION OF EVENTUAL MOROCCO-MAURITANIA DIVIDING LINE IN TERRITORY. SOMEWHAT DEFEN-

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SIVELY, ABDALLAH SAID THAT DIVDING LINE DID NOT DEPEND ON PRESENT AREAS OF MOROCCAN MILITARY CONTROL, AND ASSERTED THAT IN ANY EVENT MOROCCANS NEEDED MAURITANIAN SUPPORT TO DEFEND POSITION ON SPANISH SAHARA IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. ABDALLAH SUGGESTED THAT FINAL DIVIDING LINE MIGHT BE DRAWN FROM AREA IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF VILLA CISNEROS, WHICH WOULD BE MAURITANIAN, THROUGH GUELTA AREA TO POINT ON PRESENT MAURITANIAN BORDER PARALLEL TO BIR

MOGHREIN. IN EXPLANATION, HE SAID THAT INHABITANTS SOUTH
OF THIS LINE WERE VERY LARGELY MOORISH RATHER THAN BERBER
OR ARAB. KISSINGER

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